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Chapter 17
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1. **What was the image of slavery before 1500?**

Prior to 1500, slavery was widely recognized as a prevalent aspect of complex societal hierarchies. There were various forms of enslavement, including agricultural, domestic, and war captives, among others. The depiction of slaves before 1500 was often linked to cultural characteristics such as perceived barbarism, defeat in warfare, or lack of civilization and education. This suggested that slavery was a state that could be overcome through the acquisition of cultural norms, civilization, and education from their masters who were seen as civilized.

2. **What factors contributed to a new construction of slavery?**

Several developments contributed to the evolution of slavery as a concept. The slave trade played a pivotal role in this process, leading to a substantial increase in the number of enslaved individuals, primarily from Africa. These individuals were brought to British Southern Colonies, the Caribbean, and South America, where they constituted large populations of African slaves. Due to their skin color, these slaves were subjected to dehumanizing treatment and considered to be inferior. This led to racial differences between slaves and their masters; becoming more pronounced than cultural differences, which was the case prior to 1500.

Unlike the earlier period where cultural differences could be addressed through religious conversion or education, racial differences, regardless of cultural assimilation, could not be erased.

3. **Why and how were American slave populations dehumanized?**

In the American context, the dehumanization of the slave population was unparalleled compared to other slave populations that existed prior to 1500. The majority of slaves in the Atlantic world were utilized as plantation labor, and were deliberately excluded from participating in the cultural traditions of their masters.

4. **To find the new racial Construct Which emerged, especially in colonial southern society and the Caribbean, and the justification behind it.**

The inhumane treatment and exploitation of these individuals was rationalized through the exploitation of racial differences, perpetuating the notion that African slaves were less human than their owners. The harsh conditions resulted in elevated mortality rates among the slave population, and instead of allowing for growth through natural means, such as sexual reproduction, slave populations were sustained through the acquisition of additional enslaved individuals, further perpetuating their dehumanization and setting a precedent for the global slave trade.

5. **Do you see remnants of this in 21st century America? Explained.**

Yes, the legacy of slavery and the dehumanization of African Americans has had lasting impacts on contemporary American society. Despite the abolition of slavery and the progress made through the Civil Rights Movement, systemic racism and discrimination still exist and continue to affect many African Americans in various aspects of their lives, such as access to education, employment, and the criminal justice system. Additionally, the wealth and income disparities between white and African American communities can also be traced back to the legacy of slavery and institutionalized racism. It's important to acknowledge and address these lingering effects to work towards creating a more equitable society for all.